

which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SEC. ____ . AUDIT AND STUDY RELATING TO GOVERNMENT-SPONSORED ENTERPRISES.

(a) **ANNUAL AUDITS.**—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall annually conduct an audit of the Fannie Mae Foundation and the Freddie Mac Foundation, or any successors thereto.

(b) **STUDY AND REPORT ON LOBBYING ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study of the lobbying activities of government-sponsored entities to examine whether such activities further each of their congressionally chartered missions.

(2) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to Congress on the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—As used in this section, the term “government-sponsored enterprise” means—

(1) the Federal National Mortgage Association and any affiliate thereof;

(2) the Federal Home Loan Mortgage Corporation and any affiliate thereof; and

(3) the Federal home loan banks.

SA 2997. Ms. COLLINS submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill S. 2349, to provide greater transparency in the legislative process; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 16, line 8 strike “the” and “Transparency”, strike “Legislative” and insert “Lobbying.”

On page 44, line 18 between “section” and “; or” strike “503” and insert “263.”

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry be authorized to conduct a hearing during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 10:30 a.m. in SR328A, Senate Russell Office Building. The purpose of this committee hearing will be to review the United States Department of Agriculture's Management and Oversight of the Packers and Stockyards Act

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Armed Services be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2006, at 9:30 a.m., in open session to receive testimony on the defense authorization request for fiscal year 2007 and the future year's defense program.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Com-

mittee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2006, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on “A Review of Self-Regulatory Organizations in the Securities Markets.”

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 3:15 p.m., on Nominations.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 9 at 10 a.m. The purpose of this hearing is to consider the pending nominations of Raymond L. Orbach, of California, to be under Secretary for Science, Department of Energy; Alexander A. Karsner, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Energy (Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy); Dennis R. Spurgeon, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary of Energy (Nuclear Energy); and David Longly Benhardt, of Colorado, to be solicitor of the Department of the Interior.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be authorized to meet to conduct a markup on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 9 a.m. in Senate Dirksen Building Room 226.

Agenda

I. Nominations: Steven G. Bradbury, to be an Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Counsel; John F. Clark, to be Director of the United States Marshals Service; Donald J. DeGabrielle, Jr., to be U.S. Attorney for the Southern District of Texas; John Charles Richter, to be U.S. Attorney for the Western District of Oklahoma; Amul R. Thapar, to be U.S. Attorney for the Eastern District of Kentucky; Mauricio J. Tamargo, to be Chairman of the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States.

II. Bills: S. ____ Comprehensive Immigration Reform, Chairman's Mark; S. 1768, A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Grassley, Schumer, Feingold, Durbin; S. 829, Sunshine in the Courtroom Act of 2005; Grassley, Schumer, Cornyn, Leahy, Feingold, Durbin, Graham, DeWine, Specter; S. 489, Federal Consent Decree Fairness Act; Alexander, Kyl, Cornyn, Graham, Hatch; S. 2039, Prosecutors and Defendants Incentive Act of 2005; Durbin, Spec-

ter, DeWine, Leahy, Kennedy, Feinstein, Feingold; S. 2292, A bill to provide relief for the Federal judiciary from excessive rent charges; Specter, Leahy, Cornyn, Feinstein, Biden.

III. Matters: S.J. Res. 1, Marriage Protection Amendment, Allard, Sessions, Kyl, Hatch, Cornyn, Coburn, Brownback.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate for a hearing entitled, “The President's FY2007 Budget Request and Legislative Proposals for the SBA” on Thursday, March 9, 2006, beginning at 10 a.m. in room 428A of the Russell Senate Office Building.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Veterans' Affairs be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, March 9, 2006, to hear the legislative presentation of the Paralyzed Veterans of America, the Blinded Veterans of America, the Non-Commissioned Officers Association, the Military Order of the Purple Heart, and the Jewish War Veterans.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Select Committee on Intelligence be authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on March 9, 2006 at 2:30 p.m. to hold a closed business meeting.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Special Committee on Aging be authorized to meet Thursday, March 9, 2006 from 10 a.m.–12 p.m. in Dirksen 138 for the purpose of conducting a hearing.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CLEAR AIR, CLIMATE CHANGE AND NUCLEAR SAFETY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate Change, and Nuclear Safety be authorized to hold a hearing on Thursday, March 9th at 9:30 a.m. to conduct oversight of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON CONSTITUTION, CIVIL RIGHTS AND PROPERTY RIGHTS

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Constitution, Civil Rights and Property Rights be authorized to meet to conduct a markup to

consider S.J. Res. 12, The Flag Desecration Resolution on Thursday, March 9, 2006 at 1:30 p.m. in Dirksen Senate Office Building Room 226.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON FEDERAL FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT, GOVERNMENT INFORMATION, AND INTERNATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. COLEMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Subcommittee on Federal Financial Management, Government Information, and International Security be authorized to meet on Thursday, March 9, 2006, at 2:30 p.m. for a hearing regarding "Reporting Improper Payments: A Report Card on Agencies' Progress."

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 10 a.m. on Monday, March 13, the Senate begin consideration of the budget resolution, if available; provided further that the time until 11:30 be equally divided; and I further ask that the Senate then proceed to a period of morning business from the hours of 11:30 to 1:30 p.m. with that time equally divided.

I further ask unanimous consent that at 1:30 the Senate resume consideration of the budget resolution.

Finally, I ask unanimous consent that on Friday, March 10, it be in order for the Budget Committee to file reported legislation from 11 a.m. to 12 noon.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONGRATULATING ROSEY FLETCHER FOR WINNING GIANT SLALOM OLYMPIC BRONZE

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 396 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 396) congratulating Rosey Fletcher for winning the Giant Slalom Olympic Bronze Medal.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 396) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 396

Whereas on February 23, 2006, Rosey Fletcher became the first woman from the

United States to win an Olympic medal in the parallel giant slalom;

Whereas Rosey Fletcher won a bronze medal for her performance at the 2006 Torino Olympic Winter Games;

Whereas Rosey Fletcher is the only snowboarder to have competed in 3 Winter Olympic Games;

Whereas Rosey Fletcher was a silver medalist at the 1999 and 2001 world championships and is ranked 8th in the parallel giant slalom on the World Cup circuit;

Whereas February 23, 2006, was declared "Rosey Fletcher Day" by Alyeska Resort in honor of her Olympic achievement and mentoring of young Alaskan athletes; and

Whereas Rosey Fletcher is a hometown hero from Girdwood, Alaska: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate congratulates Rosey Fletcher for winning the bronze medal in the parallel giant slalom.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORY AND ACHIEVEMENTS OF THE CURLING COMMUNITY OF BEMIDJI, MINNESOTA

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to consideration of S. Res. 397 which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 397) recognizing the history and achievements of the curling community of Bemidji, Minnesota.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 397) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

The resolution, with its preamble, reads as follows:

S. RES. 397

Whereas the citizens of Bemidji, Minnesota, have enjoyed the sport of curling ever since the Hibbing Curling Club demonstrated the sport during the Winter Carnival of 1932;

Whereas many families who live in Bemidji have participated in the sport for over 4 generations, the latest of whom enjoy the opportunity to enroll in high school courses that are held at the Bemidji Curling Club and focus on the fundamentals of curling;

Whereas members of the Bemidji community gathered at the Tourist Information Building and organized the now famous Bemidji Curling Club on January 13, 1935;

Whereas the Club brought the Bemidji community together, as members routinely shared their equipment with fellow curlers until the Club could afford to purchase a sufficient supply of stones, brooms, and other items;

Whereas the Bemidji Curling Club has promoted the participation of women in the sport of curling for almost 60 years;

Whereas the tireless efforts of parents and fellow members of the Club have inspired a large number of youths in the Bemidji community to participate in junior leagues;

Whereas teams belonging to the Bemidji Curling Club have won over 50 State and national titles;

Whereas, after producing generations of champion curlers, the City of Bemidji, the Bemidji Curling Club, and the town of Chisom have the honor of calling themselves the home of the 2006 United States Men's and Women's Olympic Curling Teams;

Whereas the citizens of Bemidji and Chisom celebrated the strong performances of each Olympic curling team, and watched with pride as the Men's Olympic Curling Team captured the bronze medal in Torino; and

Whereas the Bemidji Curling Club and the City of Bemidji continues to foster the growth and development of curling by hosting the United States World Team Trials in March of 2006: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the curling community of Bemidji for its efforts in promoting the sport of curling in Minnesota and the United States; and

(2) respectfully requests the Enrolling Clerk of the Senate to transmit an enrolled copy of this resolution to—

(A) the City of Bemidji; and

(B) the Bemidji Curling Club.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that at 5:30 p.m. on Monday, March 13, the Senate proceed to executive session and an immediate vote on the confirmation of Calendar No. 520, Leo Gordon to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade; provided further that following that vote the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS RECOMMITTED

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, as in executive session, I ask unanimous consent that Executive Calendar Nos. 550 and 561 be recommitted to the HELP Committee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDERS FOR MONDAY, MARCH 13, 2006

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand in adjournment until 10 a.m. on Monday, March 13; I further ask that following the prayer and the pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved, and the Senate then proceed to the budget resolution as under the previous order.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROGRAM

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, I say to our colleagues, we have a number of items to complete next week before the March recess. This afternoon,